

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

November 2, 2020 “The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places.” Issue XCX.6

One-Man Masterpiece: Fine Arts Dept Hosts Firehouse Theatre’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

During this pandemic, all of theater took a hit. Many in the industry suffered, forced to close or use different methods to put on a show. Those who know firsthand how hard this pandemic has been in the theater industry would be our very own faculty members, Prof. Shirley Kagan and Prof. Matt Dubroff. Last year these professors started working on a project along with actor Billy Christopher Maupin, pictured to the right with Dubroff. This project was adapting the Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray* into a play. Making a book into a play is hard enough without the challenges that COVID-19 has brought. With their great resilience and creativity, these three, along with a dedicated staff, were able to bring the book to life, displaying an amazing performance for hundreds of people. The process of converting a book into a play was very difficult. It started with

Kagan and Maupin working on the script for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. They spent a few months adapting the book into a script, then came the time to translate the script onto the stage. They would work on Zoom, with Maupin acting out his scenes as Kagan directed the play from the other end of the Zoom call. This continued until the start of summer, when it was time for the production to be brought to the Firehouse theater in Richmond. Due to COVID-19 protocols, only six audience members were allowed in the theater at a time, but the event was live-streamed. In an interview, Maupin described the situation to be extremely difficult: “It is exhausting being up there by myself. I am used to drawing off the energy of the audience or other actors on the stage, so this was definitely a challenge” When the show came to Hampden Sydney, the cast had more challenges to overcome. First off, Maupin had to do the show after a two-

month break. Then there was the challenge of only being able to rehearse the show a week before opening. H-SC alum Robert Morris '20, who assisted with the lights for the show, described setting up the lights as “an interesting new challenge”. Morris and Dubroff worked tirelessly on the light design. Due to the lack of physical people on stage, the lights themselves became their own actors, each with its own separate personality. Once these things were in order, the play was ready

for the viewing entertainment of H-SC. Before reviewing the show there is some background information needed for those that have not read the book or seen the play. The book *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is about a man named, perhaps obviously, Dorian Gray. Dorian is an extremely handsome young man whose innocence is his most redeeming quality. The book describes the downfall of Dorian Gray, how his innocence was corrupted by his seeing



Photo courtesy of Michael Harris '22

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How Are We Doing? A Report on Random Testing

BRENNAN VAUGHT '21
STAFF WRITER

It is no secret that Hampden-Sydney has had its ups and downs in the fight to control COVID-19 on campus. Certainly, there have been good weeks and bad weeks, but the random testing seeks to get ahold of outbreaks before they happen. Coupled with wastewater testing, College administrators are looking to get ahead of the outbreaks by seeing where the virus is most concentrated on campus, then randomly testing a certain number of students in those areas. In an interview with Dr. Marcus Pendergrass, an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, I asked what

the numbers were for the first round of random testing and he reported them to me as the following: 80 students selected, 62 showed up, 8 of the 62 had previously con-

95% confident that somewhere between 1/16 and 1/4 Hampden-Sydney students were infected at the time of the first testing. Again, I want to reiterate that those

tions were occurring. Additionally, he wanted to say that the College is trying to test more often than once. For example, in the second round of testing, there were 0 positive tests among 45 random tests. However, 35 students did not show up for their tests, meaning that the data with the second round is not as accurate as the first set.

... we can be 95% confident that somewhere between 1/16 and 1/4 Hampden-Sydney students were infected at the time of the first testing.

tracted—and recovered—so they were excused, leaving 54 being actually tested—with 7 positive tests. This means roughly 13.00% of tested students were positive for COVID-19. With a 95% confidence interval applied, the “true infection rate” could be anywhere from 6.2–24.8%. This means that we can be

numbers are not mine; Pendergrass reported them to me. The first question that I asked Pendergrass about the numbers was simply “what do they mean?” He responded by explaining that the numbers were a way to attempt to estimate the overall infection rate on campus and determine where the infec-

“Every test result that comes back - whether positive or negative - is valuable information for the College. Every no-show for testing not only deprives the College of that information, it also muddies the waters about the overall infection rate on campus,” said Pendergrass. In my second

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Wilson Center Hosts Debate on Electoral College

DANIEL NIVENS '24
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday night, The Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest hosted Dr. David Marion and Dr. Ronald Heinemann to debate the merits of the Electoral College. With Marion taking the affirmative position and Heinemann taking the negative position, both were given the opportunity to explain their argument for fifteen minutes followed by questions from each other and from the audience. Heinemann led, submitting that the Electoral College is “archaic, cumbersome, undemocratic, and potentially dangerous.” He asked, “Why have an election if the person with the most votes loses?” and noted that no other governmental system

in the United States works like the Electoral College. Challenging the often-cited defenses of the system, he reasonably asked why we should trust a minority over the majority, trusting a system “not made in heaven” but by “a compromise between elitists and populists.” The result of that compromise, Heinemann posited, is a “Rube Goldberg machine” that fails to fulfill its primary purposes. The Electoral College was meant to ensure virtuous citizens were elected, to balance the power between small and large states, and to prevent the influence of political parties. Instead, “Corrupt Bargains,” special commissions, and Supreme Court Justices have often determined the results.” The Electoral College System, Heinemann

contends, has led to faithless electors, to political horse-trading, and to the unfairness of winner take all. To remedy these flaws, Heinemann proposed a direct popular vote system for the President. In a later interview, he noted that this is not an anti-Constitutional perspective. Rather, he noted how “remarkable it is that there have only been twenty-seven amendments” and that most of these deal with “further democratization

of the society.” A direct popular vote amendment, he argued, would continue this trend toward a more robust democracy. Marion began his fifteen minutes by acknowledging that the Electoral College is “not perfect.”

Rather, taking a perspective from culture and reason, Marion sought to argue that the system is “preferable to the system Dr. Heinemann laid out.” Marion’s points stressed the importance of what political legitimacy means

in the United States, stating that it “must be about more than consent or raw power, but justice to ensure that we have a quality republic.” A quality republic is one in which “Self-conscious citizens [are] nurtured” in a culture of rights. Marion argued this can only be done by local governments, and for people to take these governments seriously they require “significant authority.” The Electoral College serves as

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Page 6: Continuations

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS '22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

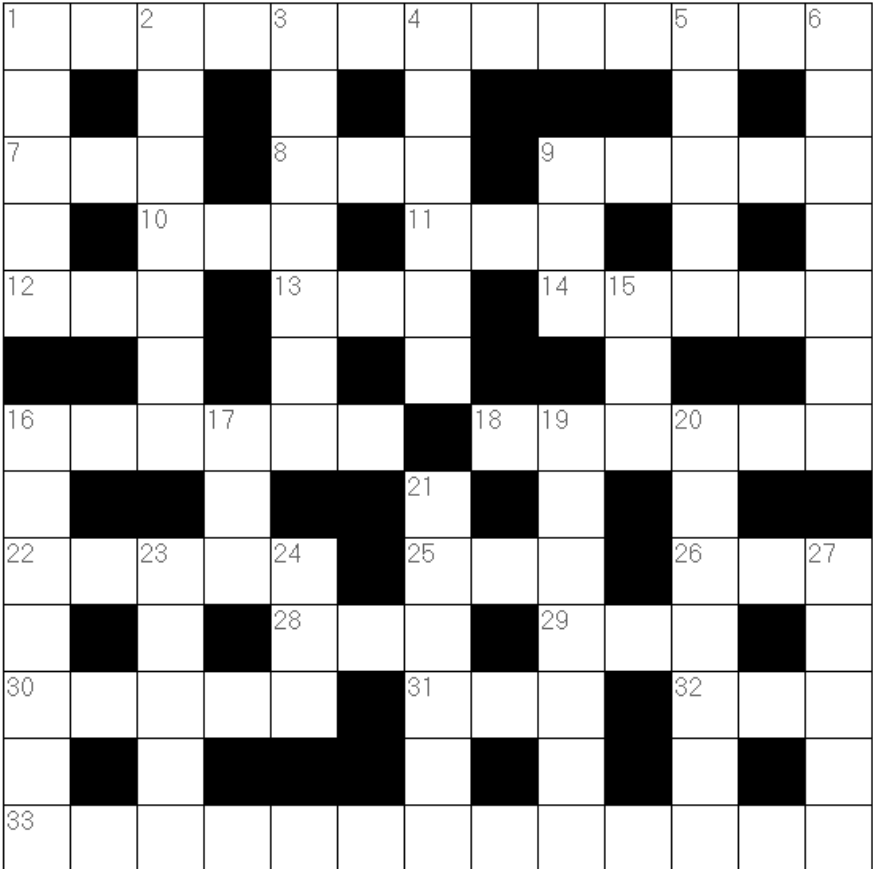
ACROSS:

1. paraphernalia for a specific activity
7. electronic welfare payment system
8. female member of a cloistered community
9. a presidential candidate might give this kind of speech
10. anger
11. gumdrop-like Halloween candy (sing.)
12. “outside” prefix
13. Kanga’s son
14. *Grease*: “_____ the One That I Want”
16. grocery store infrastructure
18. stockpiles
22. fatuous
25. popcorn brand: _____ II
26. Hemingway: *The Old Man and the _____*
28. _____, Forrest, _____!
29. choose

30. the one being tutored
31. *Avatar*: *The Last Airbender* protagonist

32. aesthetics subject matter
33. dining establishment owner
- DOWN:**
1. naproxen pain reliever brand
2. opposite of anions
3. demoralize or discourage
4. chaotic or unplanned
5. letter recipient in *About Schmidt*
6. dinners
9. pig home
15. third floor of Brown Student Center
16. pilot
17. geographically

- limited computer network
19. UFC cage
20. say again
21. European bread soup
23. poker bets
24. before (archaic)
27. Spanish for “author”



Debate, cont’d

a reminder of the states’ power and as a guarantee of the system of federalism. According to Marion, “The Electoral College fits nicely with the logic of the Constitution. It reminds us every four years that states are important.” While he did not deny Marion cited the logic of Federalist 10, where James Madison argued that the government of American must reject vicious factionalism. Under his reasoning, the direct popular vote would only encourage more factionalism. After their presentations, the

“The Electoral College fits nicely with the logic of the Constitution. It reminds us every four years that states are important.”

Heinemann’s argument that Americans will likely reject another victor who did not win the popular vote, he argued this was a failure of civic education and not of the Electoral College. In response to Heinemann’s proposed direct popular vote amendment, two professors exchanged comments about each other’s positions and took questions from the Zoom audience, which was the largest for a Wilson Center program this year. The discussion was an example of a vigorous but civil debate for all tigers.

ERRATA,
OCTOBER 14

The article “Omicron Delta Kappa Initiates New Class” was written by Brennan Vaught ’21, not Jacob Whitney ’21.

In the article “Hampden-Sydney Faces \$1.2 Million Budget Deficit,” Dr. Saranna Thornton’s pre-nominal title was omitted.

The author of “Proofreading at Hampden-Sydney: *Revising Our Standards*” identifies the five major errors of composition as subject-verb disagreement errors, dangling modifiers, faulty pronouns, poor parallel structure, and apostrophe mistakes. The five major errors recognized by the College’s Rhetoric Program, however, are subject-verb agreement errors, dangling and misplaced modifiers, fragments, fused sentences, and comma splices.

Varun Yerramsetti ’21’s article “Crossed Signals: Did Enrollment at H-SC Because of Bad Wifi?” was not continued on p. 5 as indicated but on p. 4, beneath the picture of the Wifi router.



Dorian Gray, cont’d

a portrait of himself drawn by one of his friends. When Dorian sees the portrait and is starstruck by the beauty of it, he is saddened by the fact that he will age and become ugly, but the portrait will remain beautiful forever.

He then gives up his soul for the opposite effect. It is not clear in the book or the play how Dorian is able to give up his soul. Both sources of this story refer to a monologue Dorian has when describing the painting. During this speech Dorian says, “How great would it be for this picture to age, but for I to stay the same. I would give my soul for that.”

It appears that due to those words being spoken, Dorian gave his soul away. Throughout the story Dorian’s bad decisions and rash actions add to the ugliness of the portrait, yet his face remains beautiful. When he is at his lowest moment and overcome with guilt over his iniquities, he destroys the painting, but that leads to his death.

Starting in the beginning, Maupin first plays Oscar Wilde (the author of the original book). After reading a passage from the book, he then acts out the scene. Each scene contains at least two characters, with a maximum of five, all played by Maupin. After each scene, Maupin would break character and begin reading the next chapter so the audience has a better understanding of what is about to take place. Maupin would

switch characters so quickly it seemed that there were multiple people on the stage. All 14 characters had different body languages and accents, each one dramatically different from the next. The lighting director took an interesting take on the actual picture of Dorian Gray. In an interview, Dubroff said there were several different ideas the crew had. One idea was simply an empty frame. That was scratched because the

“portrait” could not be ruined if there was no physical paper there.

The next idea was to make an actual portrait. However, because the audience is already inside an illusion, it was better to put a frame with a piece of brown paper. This allowed the audience to imagine what Dorian Gray would look like in their heads. This use of imagination, imagery, lighting, and direction led to a fantastic performance, if not the best theatrical play I have ever seen. I cannot express the joy I felt after watching this show.

I urge anyone who is even remotely thinking about pursuing theater, whether that be in a professional or recreational setting, to talk to the heads of our theater department, Professor Dubroff and Professor Kagan. Despite the many challenges they faced through this year, they were still able to pull off this play in epic fashion. Their dedication and skill are truly an inspiration to us Hampden-Sydney men.

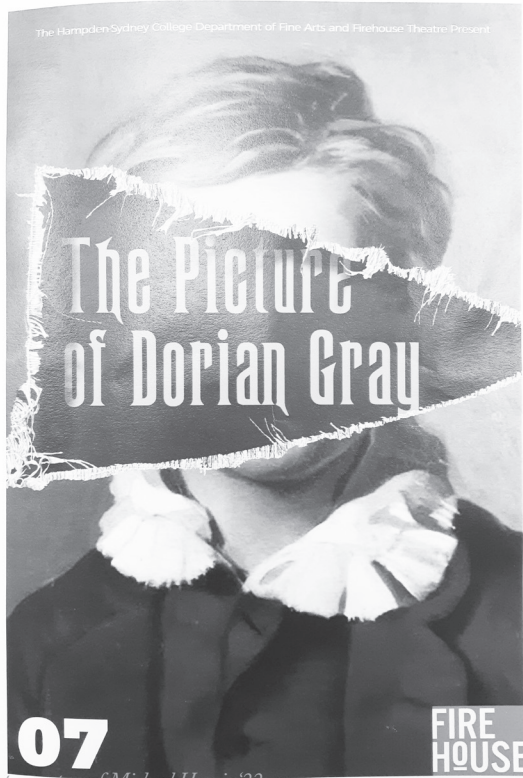
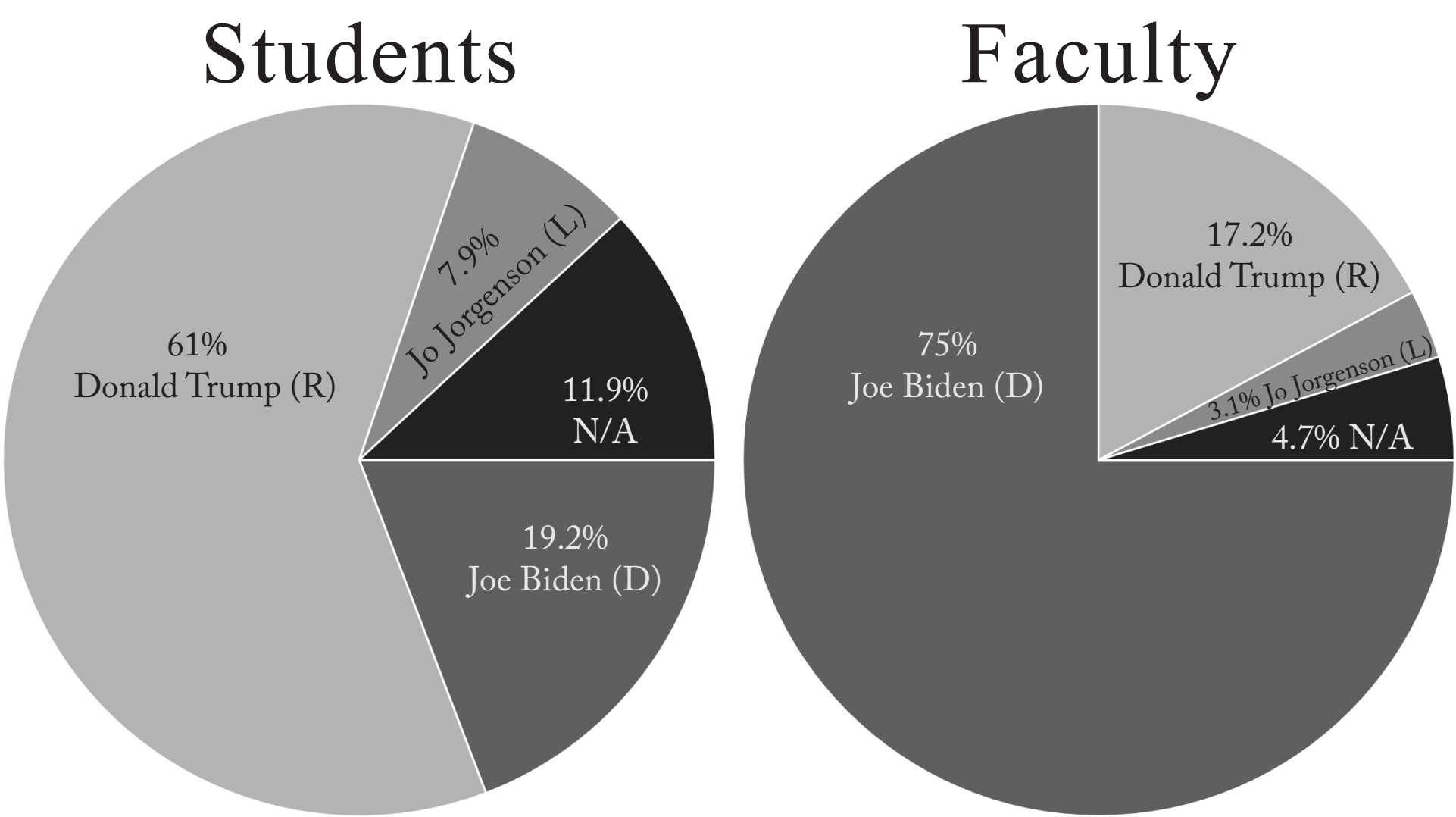


Photo courtesy of Michael Harris '22

NEWS

Survey: How is Hampden-Sydney going to vote in the 2020 Presidential Election?

Procedure: The student body and the faculty were sent similar surveys in which they were asked whom they voted for in 2016 and whom they planned to vote for this year. 177 students, about 20% of the total student body, responded to the survey, and 64 faculty members, about 60% of the total faculty, responded to it. Results for the 2020 election are below.





The proportion of the faculty who voted for a Democratic candidate increased by about 5% between 2016 & 2020.

About 80% of student respondents indicated that this is the first election in which they will be voting.

The proportion of the faculty who voted for Donald Trump increased by about 5% between 2016 & 2020.

Although Howie Hawkins (G) was listed as an option, not a single respondent, faculty or student, indicated that they were going to vote for him.

The number of students abstaining from voting is more than double the number of faculty who are abstaining form voting.

Of student respondents, 36.7% were seniors, 29.4% were juniors, 15.8% were sophomores, and 18.1% were freshmen.

Resolving the Deficit Problem: Budgeting Priorities at Hampden-Sydney College

TAYLOR MCGEE '21
GUEST WRITER

With the 1.2-million-dollar budget deficit still unresolved, the question of where that money should come from remains a primary concern for many individuals associated with the College.

... many of the facilities that have historically been “detractors” from the College are being drastically improved.

This article will attempt to demonstrate the various opinions on the College’s budgeting priorities through discussion of the current and recent financial decisions made by the College.

In an interview, College President Larry Stimpert said that the College’s highest priority is its education program. He clarified that claim by noting that “everything we do [at Hampden Sydney College] contributes in one way or another to our student’s growth and development.”

He emphasized how the education programs at residential liberal arts colleges

are much more than a classroom experience, with student life, counseling and career services, and athletics all being part of the experience that makes the colleges like Sydney exceptional.

Stimpert highlighted how novel programs like the Compass Program are real selling points have a massive “return on investment” when the admissions office is able to use them to market the strengthening of our academic program. He also pointed to capital improvement projects, showing how many of the facilities that have historically been “detractors” from the College are being drastically improved.

Major improvements like the renovations of Cushing Hall, Brinkley Hall, and the Brown Student Center have been coupled with new construction projects like the Grove Residence Complex, the Pannill Center for Rhetoric and Commu-

nication, and the Pauley Science Center that all contribute to a modern and competitive workspace for professors and students alike.

In a separate statement, the Vice President of Business Affairs and Finance, Ken Copeland, justified the continuation of capital improvement projects during this year’s budget shortfall by commenting that “no capital projects are being done this year unless we have either bond or donor funding.”

Stimpert went on to discuss a very large gift that was given to the college during a period of low enrollment. “The Board has already allocated over half of this gift to the

... there is a clear difference between the amount of money many families can afford to pay and how much a Sydney education costs.

College’s operations so that we could avoid layoffs or other major cuts to College operations. We hesitate to tap this funding further at this time because we don’t know for sure what the future will bring and good stewardship of the College requires

us to keep some significant portion of these funds in reserve.”

While many have suggested borrowing from the endowment, Stimpert notes, “We could borrow funds from the endowment . . . but borrowing always requires repayment in the future, so we could gain a short-term benefit, but we would have fewer resources available in the future because we would have to repay any funds we borrow now.”

Stimpert was clear that “after our educational program, our next highest priority has to be access to the many benefits of a Hampden-Sydney education for talented young men regardless of their fam-

ily circumstances.”

Stimpert said that there is a clear difference between the amount of money many families can afford to pay and how much a Sydney education costs. He says that

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Testing Report, cont’d

question, I asked Pendergrass, “should we be worried about a significant outbreak on campus?” That is, one that could potentially shut the school down. He answered, saying that it could happen, as things could go downhill fast.

“[The testing] tells us that the virus is spreading...the only question is how fast and whether we can keep it under control,” said Pendergrass. He added, “we have the means: masks, social distancing, etc. These things work, but people have to be conscientious, vigilant, and follow the guidelines.”

To summarize his response: we need to stay vigilant in our actions and remember that we are looking out for our Brothers by following the guidelines and controlling the spread.

To follow up on Pendergrass’ statement about the guidelines, I asked him, in my last question, “do you feel that the numbers show that the College is doing well with the guidelines that are currently in place?” He said, “The guidelines are good and people seem to be following them pretty well, at least from what I see in my classes.”

They are working, in fact, as we have

stayed in-person longer than most colleges and universities in the US. Dr. Michael Strayer, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, reiterated this point saying, “we haven’t closed, while a lot of other colleges have. But I do worry when I hear that people are letting down their guard, for instance in dorm rooms and party situations. That could be the match that ignites the flame.” It is clear that we need to stay on top of, and conscious of, our actions in all situations if we would like to continue to be in-person for the remainder of the year. Lastly, Pendergrass added, “If I had a bullhorn to speak to campus, I would quote Mad-Eye Moody: ‘Constant Vigilance!’ We’ve done pretty well up to this point, but as I said, things can go south quickly.”

Pendergrass said it best—we have done well but we need to keep our guard up and remember that our actions have consequences, regardless if immediately, or after two weeks. Remember to look after your brothers during this time, stay safe, and, as always, Roll Tigers!

OPINION

Letters to the Editor: Responding to the 10/14 Issue

DR. JACOB EUTENEUER
GUEST COLUMNIST

There is something missing from the October 14th, 2020 issue of the *The Hampden-Sydney Tiger*.

What is missing from this issue of *The Tiger* and at many other areas of our college is a sense of compassion.

Perhaps you are thinking, as James Garrison does in his guest article “Proofreading at Hampden-Sydney: Revising Our Standards,” that what is missing is proper proofreading at *The Tiger*. After all, Mr. Garrison’s article about the importance of grammar has grammatical errors such as pronoun-antecedent disagreement when he writes, “I am sure that everyone has taken moments to read over an email to his boss” (emphasis added). That’s in the Bedford Handbook on p. 142 where the move Mr. Garrison makes is explicitly identified as sexist. However, proofreading is not what is missing. Despite this error in proofreading, Mr. Gar-

risson’s attempts to use “standards” as a way to silence others comes across loud and clear. What is missing from this issue of *The Tiger* and at many other areas of our college is a sense of compassion. This complete

DR. SEAN GLEASON
GUEST COLUMNIST

We talk a lot about civil discourse at Hampden-Sydney college. But what is the state of our discourse, and is it really all that civil? We champion, on this hill, a kind of putrid, seersucker civility that only skims the surface of what it means to be a good man and good citizen: We teach you the intricacies of table wine but say nothing when our own brothers are denied a seat at the table. We implore you to hold doors for some but remain silent about traditions that lock others out. We wield free speech like a cudgel rather than an invitation for genuine dialogue. We leverage the language of civil discourse to uncivil ends. It is puerile; it is ugly; it must stop.

We must change, and this change must come from within. It must come from the student body.

Every Hampden-Sydney student, faculty, and staff member—past and present—should read the October 14th is-

sue of *The Tiger*. We should see what grammar looks like when it is weaponized. We should consider what it means to only celebrate “real” books. We should think about whether good men and good citizens can wear Von Thronstahl t-shirts featuring Sonnenrads and still call themselves good men and good citizens. Empty signifiers mean nothing, and free speech is fool’s gold if it undermines our stated mission to form good men and good citizens. A campus is a community when—and only when—its members decide for themselves what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behavior. We must change, and this change must come from within. It must come from the student body. Students: You are the body pol-

itic, and you must talk, and listen, and decide amongst yourselves how to make this campus a brotherhood

DR. NICHOLAS NACE
GUEST COLUMNIST

We have failed. The Rhetoric Program has failed, and it must work to correct the failings that Mr. James Garrison’s article of October 14th, “Proofreading at Hampden-Sydney,” so clearly puts before readers of *The Tiger*. The evidence of our failure, I should say, is not to be found in the e-mails cited in the article. It is instead to be found in Mr. Garrison’s own writing. There are many rhetorical missteps and misconceptions in the article, and though it feels uncharitable to point them out publicly, the article is proof of a larger misunderstanding about what the Rhetoric Program aims to do. Sadly, even the article’s presentation of Rhetoric’s five major errors is incorrect. The author accurately identifies only two. For the record, the five major errors are 1) fragments, 2) fused sentences, 3) comma splices, 4) subject-verb agreement errors, and 5) dangling and misplaced modifiers. It would seem that neither the proofreading the article urges nor the “professional standards” it wish-

es to invoke include simple fact checking. Worse still, the article appeared to have *The Tiger*’s full support not only in questioning the legitimacy of the word “minoritize” but in monitoring and admonishing the speech of minorities. So I will take the occasion of this troubling article to address why we must reject any attempt to weaponize proofreading and grammar, whether in an attack against our own Office of Equity and Inclusion or anyone else. It’s “less dangerous,” Alexander Pope once said, “to tire our patience than mislead our sense.” In being aggrieved by the typos of certain others and not his own factual inaccuracies, Mr. Garrison evidently disagrees. His preference to mislead *The Tiger*’s readers rather than forgive others their hastily made mistakes is itself a mistake, I hope made in haste. On this campus, an attack on a person’s or group’s use of language affects us all. It has lasting consequences for the way we perceive ourselves and others and the way we interact with one another both officially and unofficially, over e-mail and in person. E-mails from campus

Quite Literally Jumping the Shark: A Review of “The Swagalog”

BRENNAN VAUGHT ‘21
STAFF WRITER

“Make no mistake. Hampden-Sydney College was created by men. For men. And to be a man in today’s society, you need confidence, clothes that fit, a respectable handshake, a discerning taste in memes, and most importantly... SWAGGER. So bear witness to a steely, yet thoughtful collection of what it means to be a man. A strong, yet

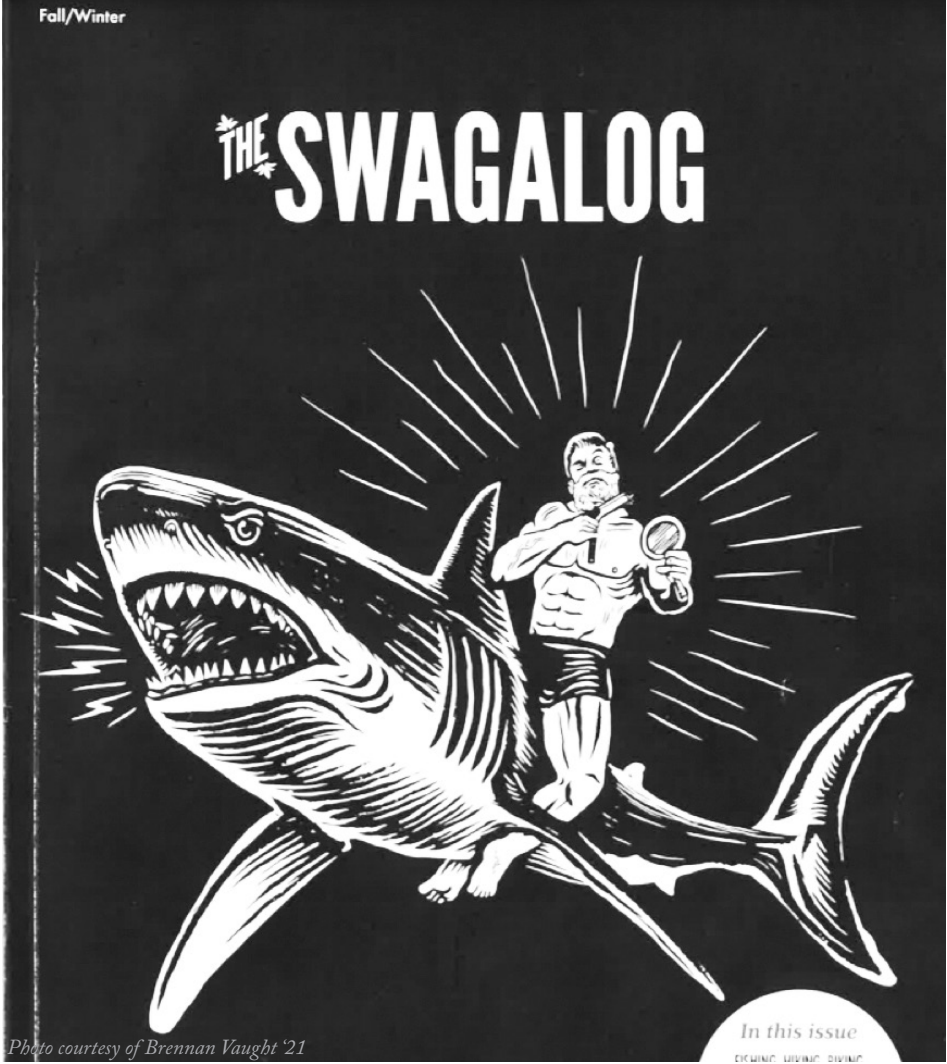
sensitive, active, yet artistic, rugged, yet intellectual man. Man. Behold, The Swagalog!” This is the print on the inside cover of the College’s latest marketing technique, “The Swagalog.” Within its 50ish pages is blown-out masculinity, distasteful jokes, and questionable phrases. For example, on pages 31 and 32 of the oh-so-fabulous Swagalog is a two-page spread about what there is to do outside at, and near the College. Not so bad, un-

til you read the small print on the right-hand side of page 32: “if you’re afraid of the dark, don’t bother applying.” So our new strategy is to tell prospective students that they don’t belong? What if they aren’t necessarily afraid of the dark, but afraid of the unknown, that is commonly portrayed as darkness, do we not want those prospective students to apply as well? If that is the case, then I guess I should not have ap-

plied since I am slightly afraid of the dark still as an almost 22-year-old student here. Let me clarify, it is not necessarily the dark, but the idea of not knowing what lies in the dark that scares me. Regardless, it seems as though I should not have applied. Simply put, The Swagalog looks a lot like a Duluth Trading Co. catalogue, and maybe that was the idea, but execution was not great. An-

other example of this is on page 38 with a graphic of the more well-known bands that have played at Sydney over the years. Again, not a bad idea, except that that first thing you read on the page is “Bro-chella.” What? Why? Is a simple graphic listing the bands that have played here not enough? Back one page, on page 37, there is a great description of the Minority Student Union—what

MSU does, where they are on campus, etc. However, the ending sentence of the section says, “Dang, that got pretty inspiring at the end there.” Why the need for self-aggrandizing? Why do we need the College seemingly being above whoever is reading The Swagalog? That is not what Hampden-Sydney is. We are modest and humble, not pretentious and conceited.



PATRICK STRITE ‘24
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 is still the dominant issue in today’s discourse. For good reason as well. The total death toll is still rising, and so are cases. Additionally, there are conflicting opinions and strategies given by experts from different fields about how the issue should be handled going forward. Opinions have shifted, and to say that there has been hypocrisy on both sides of the debate would be an understatement. However, there is one example of hypocrisy over the handling of COVID-19 that is especially alarming, and that is in New York City. When pres-

sures to open the economy in New York City began to rise, supporters of the movement were accosted as evil human beings. One of the most common lines of attack was that advocates of reopening wanted to kill your grandma. How dare these people call for reasonable reopening measures that let the general population, that is of relatively low risk of dying from the virus, return to a semi-normal state, while still protecting the most vulnerable groups of society? These policies, of course, are backed by the overwhelming amount of data on demographic breakdowns of death and transmission rates amongst specific age groups. Naturally,

these grandma-killers eventually got their way, and New York City reopened partially. Although, it was ominously warned by many that these reopening measures would be dangerous and lead to more death. Not long after New York City reopened its economy, protests began to erupt across the city. Protesters numbering in the thousands filled NYC’s streets on a daily basis, demanding their voices be heard. Pictures and videos of these protests show that demonstrators were shoulder to shoulder with one another in groups seriously exceeding that of 10 people which is obviously a breeding spot for COVID-19.

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SPORTS

The NBA Bubble: Likes, Dislikes, and Looking to the Future

JACOB MYERS '21
STAFF WRITER

The past NBA season has been undoubtedly unusual—perhaps nothing remotely similar will occur again. All things considered, in my opinion, the NBA bubble was a massive success. Back in early March when the NBA was shut down, I was convinced that the season was simply over...which, was quite honestly heart-breaking at the time. As a huge LeBron fan, I was desperate to see him win a title along with Anthony Davis. Of course, this dream came true due to the bubble—and NBA executives spared no expense to make this dream a reality.

Firstly, I want to begin with the total cost and resources of this insane project. 22 teams made their way into the bubble over the summertime, along with teams' personal training staff, executive staff, and medical staff. On top of that, Disney worked with the NBA to hire a team of medical professionals to ensure the safety of the players and the staff.

Disney also brought in an incredible cook by the name of Alexia Grant along with her small staff of two sous chefs—she alone cooked food daily, multiple times a day for the entire duration of the playoffs. Moreover, each team had a personal area for recreation, practices, and medical treatment. Logistically, I

Consistency, cont'd

Now where were these same people claiming that those who wanted to go back to work and reopen the economy were grandma killers? You'd assume that they would be pontificating from their golden throne of morality, and lecturing those who are directly responsible for killing your grandma.

However, that's the direct opposite of what occurred. The same people who were scolding before now "stood in solidarity" with the protestors. Now, this is not an article endorsing either the protestors in favor of reopening the economy or those in favor of social justice—both groups were exercising their constitutional rights—but rather one calling out the hypocrisy of NYC officials. You can't lecture people as to why the economy can't reopen and then praise thousands of protestors in close contact.

Unfortunately, this same hypocrisy is now being directed towards the Jewish communities in NYC. Cops are being ordered to go into Jewish communities deemed "hotspots," and pre-

can imagine this was a total nightmare—and the total cost ended at around \$150-million. Combine this incredible cost with the loss of viewership virtually and physically, the NBA put the effort into continuing this season despite numerous setbacks.

As I'm typing this out, I'm asking myself, why do I consider this successful? If the costs were so high and revenue was plum-

... this bubble experiment highlighted something so unbearably true about sports—without fans, there's an eerie, emptiness that takes place on the court.

meting, wouldn't most consider this to be a failure? Or not worth it? Well, if you couldn't care less about professional basketball. With that being said, the level of play, intensity, underdog victories, and game-winners, it was some of the most exciting basketball I've watched in years. I saw the Denver Nuggets take down easily the least-likable franchise of all-time, the LA Clippers. I witnessed Luka Doncic go nuclear and cement his position as a superstar. The Miami Heat shocked the entire league and fanbase with incredible, Spurs-esque style of team basketball. And of course, it all ended with LeBron's fourth ring, giving him further credibility for the elusive, unchanging GOAT title.

vent large groups from worshipping together. Governor Andrew Cuomo seems to have made it a priority to condemn the Orthodox Jewish communities repeatedly. Of course, Cuomo has been much more vocal on this issue than he ever was with the massive protests. Mass gatherings are only a problem when you can use them to scold those you disagree with politically.

Now, I *do not* believe this is due to antisemitism, and maybe the gatherings in question *are* significantly contributing to the spread of COVID-19. But as mentioned earlier, if you're going to hold a line, then hold it; it can't waiver from one group to the next.

To say the least, it's questionable behavior to parade yourself around as America's greatest leader during the pandemic after you shipped infected patients back into nursing homes and conveniently drop the blame at the feet of the Jewish community. But hey, I'm sure we can get the full and straight story in his new book.

With all of this being said, there was obviously something missing from these games and I think any fool could figure this out: The Atmosphere. I capitalized atmosphere because this bubble experiment highlighted something so unbearably true about sports—without fans, there's an eerie, emptiness that takes place on the court. From watching, one can obviously tell that

the players do put all their energy into the game despite the lack of fans. However, as a fan, it just didn't feel the same. And for the sake of peoples' health (most importantly) and the atmosphere of sports, I'm praying COVID-19 passes over so diehard sports fans such as myself can enjoy basketball as it was meant to be enjoyed—

Swagalog, cont'd

Oh, but fear not, because it cannot get any worse, right? Wrong. If the start was bad, the ending is atrocious. Allow me to quote from inside the back cover, the last words of The Swagalog: "This isn't the end. It's the beginning. We hope you've found this inaugural edition of the Swagalog to be enlightening, enriching, and perhaps... encouraging. But do not worry swagaboy and swagamen, we'll be back with more. Much, much, much. More. So until we swag again... Farewell."

Swagaboy? Swagamen? Until we swag again? I did not know the need to rhyme in our school brochure so much of a necessity that we had to make up words with the word "swag" in them. How on God's green Earth is that representative of Hampden-Sydney? I don't think I've ever heard the word "swag" used in a conversation on this campus in almost four years, but I read it three times in just as many sentences—not to mention two of the times were in made-up words. If the Swagalog were merely a dumpster fire, then we could extinguish it. However, it seems to be a dumpster fire that is riding in a train car, which is about to crash into a mountain of explosives. In other words, so bad we can do nothing but look at it, speechless. But do not worry my fellow swagabrothers, they'll be back with more!

with thousands of screaming, slightly drunk fans taunting and praising players.

Before I finish, and because I have *The Tiger* as a template

Playing Garbage Football

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

There is no doubt that the NFC East is the worst division in football. With a combined record of 7-20-1 it is pretty clear that the winner of this division will be a first round exit.

Now, this historic failure did not just come out of nowhere. The NFC East used to be a very competitive league. But due to injuries to star players like Saquon Barkley on the Giants and Dak Prescott on the Cowboys, this year has been rough on these teams.

Young teams

these mistakes are so particularly egregious to Mr. Garrison?

Scholars of composition and rhetoric have performed a lot of in-depth research about errors, usage, style, and grammar. One of the most interesting examples of this research is "The Phenomenology of Error" by Joseph Williams. Dr. Williams looks at the most commonly committed errors and, importantly, other peoples' responses to those errors. What he finds in this research is that we all commit errors in our writing. It is virtually impossible to write in an error-free manner because grammar is construct-

Grammar is something we learn, and different people growing up in different cultures and environments learn different systems of grammar.

ed. It is not natural.

Grammar is something we learn, and different people growing up in different cultures and environments learn different systems of grammar. What makes Dr. Williams's research so interesting is in his summation of how people respond to particular errors.

Each of us is more likely to notice particular types or categorizations of errors. He posits that this is because they irk us more so than other errors. And what would cause one type of error to irk someone more than a different type? The answer is largely cultural. Some of the errors pointed out by Mr. Garrison such as subject-verb agreement issues are not errors in

to vent, I'm going to conclude with a final complaint: the referees. In the history of sports, it's no secret that refs have always been heavily criti-

cized—and I personally believe, wrongfully so. However, in the case of the bubble, for the first time, I legitimately felt as if the

Continue reading on page 6

like the Washington Football Team and the Eagles are getting used to new coaching staff along with new players. Chemistry is a very hard thing to build, especially in the NFL. Right now it seems as if the chemistry of each team is failing. Besides the games where these teams play each other it is safe to say that watching NFC East teams play will be like watching paint dry. Disregarding the fact that paint drying is a lot more entertaining than watching Daniel Jones trip on one inch grass. Regardless of the East this football

season is definitely fixing to be one for the ages. With the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signing Antonio Brown to a 1 year deal to the Kansas City Chiefs signing Le'veon Bell. As football fans I know we are just all excited to have football back. As a Giants fan it is pretty tough watching my team play right now but all teams have their rough spells.

Hopefully the NFC East can return to its former glory and become the division we once knew. Until then, make sure to not start the Giants defense on your fantasy team, gentlemen.

Euteneuer, cont'd

different cultures and language systems such as African American Vernacular English (AAVE). To point out these errors and say they are so distracting as to undermine the integrity of the Office of Inclusion and Equity speaks more toward what types of language practices are comfortable and familiar to Mr. Garrison and which "errors", such as grammatically sound and consistent structures in AAVE, he finds more disagreeable than to the competency and professionalism of those he belittles.

Again, I urge compassion and understanding. We are all stressed and busy.

reading and grammatical errors of which I counted over twenty in the latest issue before I stopped. That is perfectly fine with me.

No, the disappointment comes from the blatant homophobia expressed in Daniel Nivens article "Censuring Banned Books Week" where he denigrates the focus on LGBTQ+ books with themes of acceptance and self-understanding, writing, "Nothing is necessarily wrong with those ideas, but they certainly aren't groundbreaking" (emphasis added).

The disappointment comes from the diminishing of the work the Office of Equity and Inclusion is doing because they fail to meet some unattainable standard. The disappointment comes from the picture on p. 3 of The Tiger courtesy of Andrew Barden where a student proudly wears a white supremacist symbol in a photo so oddly framed that it seems intentionally designed to include the symbol. We have problems much bigger and much more important than grammar here at H-SC.

Gleason, cont'd

of good citizens. You must do so in public, and you must enforce your standards publicly. A house divided cannot stand, and no man is a good citizen if he is not willing to curtail his speech, actions, and will for the good of the whole. Sacrifice, empathy, action: these are the hallmarks of a good man and a good citizen. Failure to live by these precepts is a moral failing on behalf of our entire community. Do not fail us for failure is not an option.

THE BACK PAGE

Budgeting, cont'd

“right now we have to fill that gap with loans,” but stated that he wanted either: to cap the maximum loans taken out per student at a certain threshold, or for the College to give students all the financial aid they need to avoid going into debt at all. He also mentioned that “over the last few years, we have raised well over \$10 million in new scholarship endowment, and we want to grow our endowed scholarships significantly over the next several years.”

While few would disagree that Stimpert’s goal to make H-SC more accessible is a noble one, many faculty members have taken issue with his claim that “when we have had financial resources and flexibility . . . we have offered some significant increases in faculty compensation.”

Stimpert noted that there was a major pay raise two years ago when the College’s enrollment peaked, and recommended I interview Dean of the Faculty Dr. Mike McDermott for more information. Dean McDermott was contacted but was not available to comment.

Some professors feel that Stimpert’s claim that faculty receives benefits during periods of economic success for the College is actually a red herring, which according to literarydevices.net is “a kind of fallacy that is an irrelevant topic introduced in an argument to divert the attention of listeners or readers from the original issue.” Dr. Tony Carilli, a Professor of Economics and Business used two models to demonstrate his point. “Suppose that the college had 80 faculty members and its compensation to faculty is \$8 million (i. e., [\$]100,000 total compensation per faculty member),” he said.

“Now suppose the student body increases by ¼ and the faculty increases by 25% as well to 100 fac-

ulty members over 5 years. Without increasing anyone’s individual pay assuming \$100,000 for each new faculty member we get total compensation is now \$10 million. This is a 25% increase over 5 years. That looks like an increase in faculty compensation of 4.6% per year.”

Carilli went on to discuss how while the total amount of money spent on faculty salaries may be increasing, this only “appears to lead to an increase in faculty compensation, when it has not.” “It would be easy to generate a similar analysis of individual member’s compensation falling while total compensation rises.” Carilli continued, “Let’s suppose the faculty agreed to allow the college to reduce its contribution to retirement to 8% from 10% (the faculty did do this) so total compensation falls to \$7.35 million. Now follow the same scenario above with the reduction to retirement. 20 additional faculty members being compensated \$98,000 per faculty member brings [the] total compensation to \$9.8 million. That amounts to an increase of 33% over the five years or 5.9% per year.”

Carilli concluded that in this model, “faculty compensation has increased by 5.9% per year while individual faculty salaries have declined by 2%. This is a red herring.”

According to Dr. Saranna Thornton, a Professor of Economics and Business, “in the 1990s the Board of Trustees adopted a target of keeping average faculty salaries at the 80th percentile for 4-year Baccalaureate colleges included in the [American Association of University Professors, or AAUP] survey. The Board reaffirmed this target in the early 2000s.”

She went on to refer to a set of AAUP statistics about faculty salaries. The AAUP reports that from the 2008–09 academic year to 2018–19 academic year, the average salaries for assistant professors has fallen from the 72nd percentile to the 52nd percentile. Over that same time period, associate professor salaries have fallen from the 75th percentile to the 39th percentile, and full professor salaries have fallen from the 79th percentile to the 55th percentile. Thornton also pointed out that, “be-

put the college in the lowest 5% of Baccalaureate colleges... HSC was 222nd out of 233 schools that submitted data for the AAUP survey in 2018-19.” As an indication of the serious unifying power this issue has on the faculty, Carilli went so far in a faculty meeting as to utter the words aloud: “I agree with my colleague [Dr. Thornton].”

All jokes aside, the H-SC Factbook, which is available on the college’s website, notes on page 71 that the national ranking of the college’s per-student endowment has fluctuated slightly, but has us ranked 122nd in both 2008 and 2018. Similarly, many faculty members mentioned the annual cost-of-living raises faculty members used to receive before 2009 but were cut in response to the economic recession.

Copeland was unable to comment on why the annual pay raises had not be reinstated, as he was not

Stimpert said, “there’s a lot of schools that are not only cutting staffing but have had a hiring freeze and they’re not adding anybody.” The fact that H-SC is actively seeking out candidates during a time when many schools, as President Stimpert notes, are choosing not to hire new faculty, could really offset some of the salary statistics that might make a faculty candidate less interested in the college.

Stimpert highlighted the fact that we are a “tuition dependent school,” with as much as 85% of our revenue coming directly from tuition, room, and board. With two unusually small Freshman classes back-to-back, it may be a while before the College is in a strong enough financial standing to invest in everything that the administration wants it to.

As we push further into the fiscal year, the question of which investments are most important

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employed at the college during the time period in question, but said that “compensation for ALL employees is very important to the ongoing health and viability of HSC and two raises have been given over the past three years. We will continue to work on moving compensation up over time.”

However, faculty members like Thornton are quick to point out that, “although there was a sharp recession in 2007–9, which had lingering effects on higher education, the College’s decisions not to offer pay raises sufficient to maintain salaries, adjusted for inflation, were not the norm at other 4-year colleges.”

One of the popular decisions the current administration is responsible for, with respect to faculty compensation, is not laying people off or cutting salaries during this financial shortfall. While not necessarily reflective of a greater trend in faculty compensation, the AAUP data Thornton reported says that our rankings with the AAUP actually rose during in the 2019–2020 school year to the 53rd percentile for assistant professors, to the 49th percentile for associate professors, and to the 58th percentile for full professors because of a pay increase authorized in January 2019. “We haven’t cut staffing, we’re continuing to do faculty searches,” President

will be on everyone’s mind. How the College ends up paying the 1.2-million-dollar budget deficit will serve as the litmus test for what the current administration really cares about investing in.

Bubble, cont'd

refs should’ve been put in front of Florida state judge and tried for crimes against the sport of basketball. The constant weak physical calls, the blatant favoritism for one specific team to make up for previously bad officiating drove me insane. It gave me insight into a truth I mentioned previously: fans need to be there. We need fans to boo at refs for absolutely atrocious calls. And trust me if you didn’t watch, there were a ton of them.

Ultimately, I truly do believe the bubble was successful. Despite the cost and the lack of viewership, at the very least NBA fans witnessed some of the cleanest court-play in history. And while some aspects of it could’ve been thought over, it was quite honestly a huge success. The NBA could’ve cut its losses and moved on—however, the league executives wrote the checks and did it safely during a global pandemic. As a sports fan, I can say that it truly was a unique experience.

Nace, cont'd

offices are written by people who tirelessly serve the College and often don’t have the luxury of even five minutes of proof-reading time. (It is an unfortunate fact that part of what some offices must spend time doing is managing the fallout from senseless attacks against them and those they serve.) Being both wrong and

The word appears in books published by the academic presses at Oxford, Columbia, Duke, and the University of Chicago. It may be a more recent neologism than “monetize,” which was constructed by the same logic roughly a century and a half ago, but it is no less legitimate for not having made it into dictionaries. The word

People who wish to forbid this word’s use are surely on the wrong side of linguistic history and on the wrong side of the history of race relations as well . . .

wrongheaded in print, however, is surely a worse and more lasting offense. We would rather read a typo in an e-mail than read an article in which a student demonstrates the failings of the Rhetoric Program in the College’s newspaper, which, often to our embarrassment, is archived for posterity.

In historical archives, instances of intolerance about language are not unusual. They occur at moments when a misinformed grammarian, intoxicated by the mastery of “minimal standards,” feels threatened in some way by the fact of language’s change and looks to bully those with a more progressive outlook.

Such grammarians wish to freeze language at certain moments of its evolution and “raise the bar” for a kind of writing only to brandish that bar as a weapon—not against everyone who makes a mistake, which of course is everyone, but against a particular group.

These backward-looking people form institutions like the Society for Pure English, which existed from roughly 1913 until the end of the Second World War, at which point any notions of linguistic puri-

ty is in its ascendancy. Its time is now, and it will surely be included in dictionaries once those dictionaries catch up to us. That is, after all, the way language works.

People who wish to forbid this word’s use are surely on the wrong side of linguistic history and on the wrong side of the history of race relations as well, not that these issues have ever been separate.

As the Director of the Rhetoric Program, I will endeavor to help students understand that our concern about grammar exists entirely in the service of our overriding concern about rhetoric, about understanding one’s own position relative to others’ and being persuasive without a command of basic facts about their subject or an inclusive stance toward their own community.

And, yes, in accordance with current usage, we now use “they” and “their” in this way. One doesn’t need to consult The Diversity Style Guide (2019) to realize that using “him” and “his” to refer to “a person” is exclusionary and

. . . our concern about grammar exists entirely in the service of our overriding concern about rhetoric, about understanding one’s own position relative to others’ and being persuasive in articulating that position.

ty became deeply suspect in their motives.

It is our great fortune now to have the field of sociolinguistics to help us see the folly of linguistic prescriptivists and their societies. It so happens that in the field of sociolinguistics, the verb “minoritize,” at which the article takes special aim, enjoys regular use.

sexist, though we do have a copy of this book available in the Rhetoric Studio if anyone wishes to delve deeper into the matter.

The Tiger took pains to make sure this article, at least part of it, had the appearance of an e-mail. We regret that nobody at *The Tiger* saved Mr. Garrison from hitting send.

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tween the 2008–09 academic year and 2019–20 average salaries H-SC paid professors declined by the following amounts: 7.3% for assistant professors, 12.6% for assistant professors; and 15.6% for full professors.” Thornton also highlighted the fact that Hampden Sydney College has been “cutting benefits since 2009.”

She noted that: “In the 2018-19 academic year benefits as a percent of salary paid